



Patricia Jursik *Update*

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November
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E-NEWS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit

Judiciary, Safety and
General Services

Personnel, Chair

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee on Long
Range
Transportation
Planning

Economic Stimulus
Task Force

Long Range
Strategic Plan
Steering Committee,
Chair

RTA Task Force,
Chair

Budget

The Finance Committee finished the difficult task of reviewing and amending the County Executive's 2011 budget. With over 25 million dollars of deficits identified, supporting core services such as the courts, jails, safety net human services, mental health hospital to name just a few and ensuring that these core services were appropriately staffed proved to be a difficult balancing of needs.

Many callers to my office wanted to know the buses would continue to get them to work. I also had many calls about Parks, and specifically, the Wehr Nature Center and the Zoo since news stories had suggested closing of some or all of the centers. A number of calls from parents and friends of loved ones wanted to know if paratransit services would still take the elderly and disabled to necessary appointments.

This budget continues to use furlough days as concessions from union employees until union contracts are resolved. We also give our non-represented employees (mostly our managers) benefit reductions with a required contribution for their pensions and higher contributions for health care. These employee concessions are historic and have never before been asked of employees at these levels.

After deliberations, the Finance Committee recommended a budget with a 2% increase over last year's tax levy. I know it is difficult to ask for this increase during hard economic times, but I heard from many of you that a small increase was preferable to drastic cuts. I did support this budget, but I will not approve additional increases through amendments; so I will wait to see what the final budget looks like before making any final decisions.

Buses

The County Executive's budget eliminates 535,000 rides per year through reduced evening and weekend hours. Overall, approximately 50% of bus ridership is attributed to commuting to work. The problem with cutting late night service is that most of these riders are using the bus to get to work. This will cause many thousands of people to lose their jobs.

Along with the Chairman, I authored an amendment that restores the 2nd and 3rd shift service while eliminating three routes with low ridership. We were able to use a one-time funding source which was originally earmarked for bus repairs. This is not an ideal way to fund buses and again uses a Band-Aid approach to funding transit. It is imperative that we find a dedicated funding source to fund our buses and provide property tax relief. The Finance Committee approved the amendment on a vote of 6 to 1.

Parks

Our parks budget is threatened because of the need to fully fund our core services along with health and human needs programs. Each year, these needs grow without requisite growth in funds from the state and federal government that mandates many of the programs. As long as the parks are funded through property taxes, these budgets will be forced to compete with the budgets for services that the State mandates the County provide.

To help rectify this problem, I introduced an amendment that would put parks and our cultural budgets for the Zoo, museums, Marcus Center and others as a separate line item on property tax bills. This separate line item is meant to separate the Parks and Culture budget from the core services budget of Milwaukee County to help insulate these departments from the continued erosion of support. While it keeps the budgets under elected representation with regard to taxation and management, it helps to identify these valued services for the tax paying public. This amendment was approved by the Finance Committee but must still be approved by the full Board, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and each individual city that prints the tax bill. It is my hope that public pressure will convince our lawmakers that this separate line item on the tax bill better identifies and preserves these important county assets.

Hoan Bridge

Many of you have continued to ask questions about the current work on the Hoan Bridge so here is the latest update. I spoke with Paul Trombino of the DOT and got this report:



DOT did an "end-up" inspection, a thorough examination of the bridge from one end to the other including taking a thermogram to determine which areas of the road surface need attention. DOT also did nondestructive steel inspections and reviewed the condition of the parapets. A contractor is placing netting under the bridge above Summerfest and Jones Island. Crews are also doing extensive repairs on the road surface including removing and replacing cement and rebar if needed. Road repair is expected to last another three to five years, according to Mr. Trombino.

While I am pleased some maintenance is taking place, we must not become complacent. DOT must still plan to perform a major re-decking which means total removal of the road deck with a complete replacement of all rebar and cement along with any other needed repair and painting of the structure. During current deck repair work, DOT will do the engineering study to determine the actual cost of re-decking. This report will be issued sometime in January 2011. We must then find the political will to get the funding for our bridge. I have been in contact with Representative Gwen Moore's office on several occasions to keep her office informed of this need.

South Milwaukee Goes Pink

The City of South Milwaukee enthusiastically held "Justice for a Cure Day" on October 19 to raise awareness about breast cancer and support research for a cure. The community donated a total of \$3,637.07. Residents wore pink including staff of City departments, the school system, and businesses such as Franciscan Villa, Bucyrus International and PyraMax Bank. Parkway Floral distributed pink carnations and pins.



South Milwaukee students presented donations to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Students and staff of South Milwaukee School District creatively participated. Led by Teri Provencher's fifth grade class, Rawson Elementary pupils collected over \$329 in pennies, filling two massive canisters that were carried on dollies. Lakeview School held a pink balloon release. E.W. Luther School sold pink ribbons to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation and fastened the ribbons to a fence in front of the school. At the High School, the South Milwaukee Rockets wore pink, held a potluck to raise funds for the Komen Foundation and informed themselves about breast cancer.

That evening, the Common Council hosted a representative from Susan G.Komen for the Cure. Mayor Tom Zepecki read the City's proclamation declaring October 19 "Justice for a Cure Day" in South Milwaukee.

I would like to recognize the leadership of Police Chief Ann Wellens and Mayor Tom Zepecki on this issue and express gratitude for the support of residents and businesses. I wore pink on October 19 in support of families affected by breast cancer and to raise awareness about the need for a cure. Every 69 seconds, a woman dies of breast cancer. To learn more or donate, please visit <http://ww5.komen.org>

Positive Activities in Sheridan Park

Positive things are happening in Sheridan Park! Light now shines above the Patrick Cudahy statue at night. Daffodil bulbs are in the ground around the Sheridan Pavilion, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Sheridan Park Friends and the leadership of Sylvia Gear.

Paths are lit at Sheridan Park now that electrical issues are finally resolved. The Parks Department completed work and was able to cover electrical trenches in the park. The Park People plan to plant trees and install a bench at Sheridan, some in memory of loved ones.

Sheridan Park Friends welcome your participation as they host plantings, weed-outs, litter clean-ups and trail hikes while they try to bring more music to the park. Please continue to contact me at (414) 278-4231 or patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com with your concerns about Sheridan Park or if you would like to join Sheridan Park Friends.

Community Calendar

Monday, November 1 – County Board Public Hearing, 7pm

At Washington Park Senior Center (4420 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee).

Thursday, November 4 – County Board Meeting, 9:30am

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

Saturday, November 6 – Buckthorn and Other Invasive Weed-out, 9am and 1pm shifts

Help clear buckthorn (for those ages 18+) and other invasives plants including honeysuckle. Bring eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) and a pair of loppers (anvil style) or pruning shears if you have either. Meet at the parking lot near tennis courts and Picnic Area 1 in Grant Park. Please RSVP to Betsy Abert at 764-9244.

Saturday, November 6 – South Milwaukee Lions' Chicken Dinner, 3-7pm

Tickets are \$9 each and must be purchased in advance from the Church or members. At St. Mark's Church, 1314 East Rawson Av, South Milwaukee. Details at www.southmilwaukee.org

Monday, November 8 – Budget Adoption, 8:30am

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

Tuesday, November 9 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm

At Marquette Manor (2409 10th Av, South Milwaukee). 571-1191

Tuesday, November 9 – St. Francis Review of Project at South Packard Avenue and Lunham, 7pm At St. Francis City Hall, Council Chambers, 4235 S. Nicholson Av, St. Francis.

Wednesday, November 10 – A Long View Across Milwaukee County, 1-2pm

Jim Uhrinak, land restorationist from the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy, will discuss the Niagara Escarpment to help raise awareness about one of Wisconsin's most unique geological features. This program costs \$2. Pre-registration is required; please call 481-9611 to reserve your seat. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy.

Thursday, November 11 – Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 11 – Cudahy H.S. Veterans' Day Program, 9am

At Cudahy High School, 4950 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy.

Thursday, November 11 – Grant Park "Park Watch" meeting, 6pm

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 764-7262

Thursday, November 11 – Friends of Grant Park meeting, 7pm

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 764-0612

Saturday, November 13 – Buckthorn and Other Invasives Weed-out, 9am and 1pm shifts

Help clear buckthorn (for those age 18+) and other invasives including honeysuckle. Bring eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) and a pair of loppers (anvil style) or pruning shears if you have either. Meet at the parking lot near tennis courts and Picnic Area 1 in Grant Park. Please RSVP to Betsy Abert at 764-9244.

Saturday, November 13 – Holiday Bazaar, 9am-1pm

FREE admission. Baked goods, homemade crafts, raffle items, white elephant / rummage sale, and lunch items available. At Grobschmidt Center, 2424 15th Av., South Milwaukee. 768-8045

Tuesday, November 16 – FREE Free Form Dance Class, 10:30am

No fee. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy, 481-9611

Tuesday, March 16 – Music Under Glass, 6:30-8:30pm

Johnny Rawls (blues). Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. Regular admission applies. 649-9830
www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm

Thursday, November 18 – Hope Shining Gala, 5:30-8:30pm

2nd annual Gala honoring those served by the Healing Center, including food, drink, silent auction, live entertainment, and heartfelt words from survivors. At the Marian Center, 3211 S. Lake Dr, St. Francis. To purchase tickets, please contact 671-4325 ext. 407.

Wednesday, November 24 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm

At Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy. 414-324-5531

Saturday, November 20 – Annual Heritage Place Tree Lighting, 3-5pm

Enjoy music, warm refreshments, and a visit with Santa. At 10th & Milwaukee Av., northwest corner, South Milwaukee. Sponsored by South Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

Sunday, November 28 – Parade & Old Fashioned Christmas, 12:30pm

Kickoff at 12th & Milwaukee Avenues, South Milwaukee. Parade ends at South Milwaukee City Hall and Community Center. Events throughout the afternoon include a visit with Santa, children's crafts and stockings, a movie, sing-a-long, and food for sale. For details, visit
www.southmilwaukee.org

Ongoing:

Music Under Glass, Tuesdays and Thursdays until March 31, 6:30-8:30pm Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. [Regular admission applies](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm). Check out the schedule of music at: www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm

